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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIRUT 002649

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA, INR, AND DS;  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DORAN/SINGH/HARDING

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/15/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [MOPS](#) [SY](#) [LE](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: ARTICLE THREATENS MARWAN HAMADEH, WHO SEES IT AS  
"DEATH THREAT"

REF: BEIRUT 2643

Classified By: Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman for reason 1.4 (d)

11. (S/NF) Reftel noted that Minister of Telecommunications Marwan Hamadeh -- who survived one assassination attempt already, on 10/1/04 -- believes that he is again being targeted. He heard a veiled threat in the 8/14 "victory speech" by Hizballah Secretary General, and he pointed out that he and two other ministers were described as members of the "Golani brigade," reporting to Ambassador Feltman, in a new Beirut newspaper presumed to be Iranian-funded. In handing a copy to the Ambassador on 8/14 and warning the Ambassador to "be careful" (as the Ambassador was also cited in the text), Hamadeh described a report he said was on a Syrian website as the most threatening of all. "This is a death sentence," Hamadeh said.

12. (SBU) Below is the Embassy's informal translation of the article in question:

BEGIN ARTICLE

HEADING: "THE TRUTH BULLETIN" from Nizar Nayuf

TOP LINE: Minister Marwan Hamadeh reveals Nasrallah's position in a new report from the Israeli journalist Naseem Aluuni (poss: Alwani)

SUMMARY LINE: Hamadeh informs the Israelis that Hizballah sent dozens of tank snipers and elite forces to the south and has given the order to Hizballah fighters to continue confronting Israelis as long as they remain in Lebanon after cease-fire -- the violent afternoon raid on Dahiyyeh (southern suburbs, on 8/13, the final full day of fighting) was due the information in a message giving the whereabouts of Nasrallah.

Tel Aviv: from Naseem Aluuni (poss: Alwani)

Official Israeli sources close to Minister of Justice Haim Ramon revealed that the Israeli government received a message from Minister of Communications Marwan Hamadeh, via the American Ambassador in Beirut Feltman, saying that Hizballah SYG Hassan Nasrallah was in the southern suburbs (ad-dahiyyeh al-jannubiyeh) of Beirut. The message, which "The Truth" verified through obtaining a document of a "diplomatic"

character from one of the European missions in Tel Aviv proving it, said that "Hassan Nasrallah is present right now (about 2:30 p.m. Middle East time on August 13) in the Ruweiss area of the southern suburbs." The message also said that Hassan Nasrallah gave orders to dozens of tank snipers, and hundreds of elite forces, which had so far not participated in the battles, to go that night to the front line in the south to clash with Israeli troops following the agreed upon cessation of hostilities at 8 am tomorrow (August 14) morning." The message went on, "Hassan Nasrallah has duped all of us. While he was telling us that his fighters will not prevent the deployment of the army (LAF) in the South, he informed the government that he only understands the cessation of hostilities to mean the cessation of fire across the border - Israeli air raids over Lebanon and rocket attacks on Israel. Apart from this, the resistance is not affected so long as one Israeli soldier remains on Lebanese soil."

According to the Ramon sources, the orders were given for the Israeli air force's "lightening" strike (coming ten minutes after the message) on the area indicated by Minister Hamadeh, which was hit with 38 missiles. It is known that 18 bombers participated in the attack, carrying out 20 raids in only two minutes. The sources revealed that the missiles which were used were of the bunker buster variety which had yet to be used and which Israel received from the United States this week via British airports.

The sources described the raid as "the most violent of its kind since the destruction of the city of Dresden in World War Two. The explosives weight was 31 tonnes, destroying four buildings completely..." Unconfirmed information indicates

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that the explosives that were used were of depleted uranium type... (omitted material describes material destruction of loss of life of attack).

An official statement from Hizballah denied that Nasrallah nor any other leaders, was in the place...(describes earlier Israeli attempt to assassinate Nasrallah at the beginning of the war in Bourj al-Barajneh area of Beirut)

Did the Americans participate directly in today's attack?

According to currently available information, which cannot be confirmed for obvious reasons, the Israeli planes received logistical, intelligence, and guidance support from U.S. Military satellites and from American naval units in the Mediterranean. The sources in Tel Aviv say that the missiles were used in the raid, since "it is not in the technical capability of the Israeli air force to direct them with the necessary precision without relying on American space logistical support." Whatever the correctness of this point, nevertheless what the American journalist revealed in the New Yorker today, quoting American sources close to Israel, indicates that Israel and the U.S. coordinated the attack on Hizballah "before Hizballah carried out the kidnapping of the two Israeli soldiers," and that the American administration participated in preparing the attack on Hizballah, since this would help in its preemptive strike on Iran.

(Underlined) Accompanying the report was the following remark:

Contrary to the normal journalistic professional principle, "the Truth" announces that it is prepared to hand over the "diplomatic document" referred to above to any independent commission of inquiry, since the air strike targeted innocent civilians, mostly children, and since the behavior of the Lebanese minister is classifiable under the framework of "helping to commit war crimes." And "The Truth" stresses, if Minister Hamadeh decides to pursue the publishers of this report, that it is legally accountable for every word presented in this report, and can provide documented proof of that.

END ARTICLE.  
FELTMAN